



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR VANCOUVER ISLAND WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT 84,
HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE AND BY ZOOM**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Arlaine Fehr, Chairperson (Gold River)
Debbie Mann (Gold River)
Allison Stiglitz (Tahsis)

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Jenniffer Hanson, Vice-Chairperson (Kyuquot)
Andrew Smith (Zeballos)

ALSO PRESENT: Lawrence Tarasoff, Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer
Annie McDowell, Associate Director of Human Resources
Six Staff Members

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Fehr called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

2020:R-038 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the agenda."

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2020:R-039 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 8, 2020."

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. **Honouring Retirees**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairperson Fehr presented Mr. Romeo Gaiga with a gift and plaque to commemorate his 29+ years of service as District Carpenter. Mr. Gaiga's name will be added to the Plaque of Honour that is on display in the School Board Office. Mr. John Levering and Mrs. Allison Cross, who were unable to attend, will be honoured in the same way, in accordance with District Policy.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BC School Trustees Association
- BCSTA
- Board, SD5 (SE Kootenay)
- Chair, SD38 (Richmond)
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Education
- BCSTA
- BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Update and Q+A, Provincial Council, Fall Events, Budget Consultation, BCSTA 2020-2021 Datebook Orders, Together Pledge, K-12 Restart Plan, Official Languages Questionnaire, Language Education Protocols for Agreements, FOIPPA Extension
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
- Thank You from the SD5 Board of Education to the SD5 Staff and School Community re the COVID Crisis
- Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Allowing International Students to Commence Studies on September 8, 2020
- Letter of Gratitude to Board Chairs for the Innovative, Nimble and Collaborative Leadership Demonstrated in School Communities
- Copy of Letter to BCSTA President re Provincial Protocol for School District Reserves
- BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees

- BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BC Teachers' Council
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - Minister of Education
 - Chair, SD42 (Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows)
 - President, BC School Sports
 - Coalition for Music Ed in BC
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - Chair, SD43 (Coquitlam)
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - Chair, SD61 (Greater Victoria)
 - Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)
 - BCSTA
 - Chair, SD69 (Qualicum)
 - President, CUPE BC
 - President, BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - BCSTA
 - VISTA
- BCSTA Weekly: Professional Learning Feedback; IEC Seeks Input; BCSTA Committees; Webinar – Equity and Access to Learning; Letters; Reminders; Fall Events
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BC TEP Post-Secondary Plans for 2020-21 Academic Year, in Light of COVID-19
 - BCSTA Weekly: Trustee Update & Q&A; CSBA Cross-Canada COVID-19 Check-in; Bill 19-COVID-19 Related Measures Act; Bill 22 – Mental Health Amendment Act, 2020; Opinion – AB's School Funding Manual Has Clear Expectations; Letters; Budget Consultation; BCSTA Datebook Orders; Provincial Council Deadlines; Events
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: President's End of Year Message; Letters; Reminders; Guide to School Legislation
 - Appointment of Special Advisor to School District 84 to Further the District's Interest in Significantly Improving Student Achievement
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods and Minister of Education re Universal Food Program
 - Copy of Letter to Ministers of Education, Health and Tourism, Arts and Culture re Request to Investigate Options for a Safe Return to School Sport
 - Several Updates about School Music Programs in BC
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: School Restart; CSBA Update/Congress; Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order; New Vaping Legislation; Anti-Racism Resources; Copyright Reminder; Letters; Professional Learning Feedback; Provincial Council Deadlines: Fall Events
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Concern with the Stage 2 Back-to-School Plan
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: 2020/21 K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines; BC Budget Consultation Report; 2019 Provincial Exam Errors Report; NSBA School Safety Virtual Summit; CSBA AGM; Robert's Rules; First Nations Education Infrastructure; Canada's 2020 Volunteer Awards; Letters; IEC Survey; Provincial Council Deadlines; Fall Events
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education Advocating for Full Funding and Flexibility to Create an Online Learning Option for Families Through COVID-129
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education to Request Federal Funding on a Per Capita Student Enrollment Basis and for Districts to Have Autonomy to Direct Those Funds to Greatest Needs
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Health Requesting Clarification Regarding the Government's COVID-19 Plan for Return to School
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Federal Government's 'Safe Return to Class' Fund
 - Copy of Letter to Minister of Education re Distribution of New Federal Funding to School Districts
 - BCSTA Weekly: New Federal Funding Builds on Plans for a Safe Back to School; BCSTA Office Operations and Hours; BCSTA's New Legal Blog; BCPVPA Annual Magazine; Special Report: Now is the Time: A Report Card on Government Access to Information Timeliness; The Economics: Other Countries Show that Schools Need Not be Pandemic Hotspots; Setting Children & Youth Up for a Successful Return to School; Letters; Virtual Provincial Council; Fall Events
 - BCSTA Headlines: Daily News for School Trustees
 - BCSTA Weekly: President's Welcome Back; K-12 School Return Fact Sheet; Back to School Anxiety; Letters; Reminders; Fall Events
 - Ministerial Order – Board Policies re Child Care Programs
 - Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association Fall Conference and Business Meeting

2020:R-040 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
 “TO receive and file the correspondence.”

REPORT OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Chairperson Fehr reported that the Board discussed three labour issues, one land issue and two legal issues.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

a. **School Report**

Trustee Stiglitz welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Graves to the teaching staff of Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School, and looks forward to a very positive school year.

b. **VISTA Fall Conference**

The Board and Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer will be attending the upcoming Vancouver Island School Trustees' Association Fall Conference and Business Meeting, to be held by Zoom on October 3rd. The guest speaker is Anthony McLean, who will speak on “Anti-Racism: What Can Boards Do?”. With a background in theatre, Anthony McLean delivers lively presentations on mental health, diversity and inclusion. He has delivered hundreds of inspiring talks across Canada, the US and Australia and, as a respected voice in his field, appeared on CBC News, Global Toronto’s Morning Show, and Breakfast Television. Delivering research-backed tools and actionable strategies, McLean always leaves his audiences inspired to bring their best every day. He is currently writing his first book, “Mental Health for High Performers”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **COVID-19**

The District has a COVID-19 Safety Plan which includes Public Health, Ministry of Education and WSBC guidelines, and it is posted on the District’s website. Each of the schools have safety plans, posted on the school website, and communicated to parents. Currently at Stage 2, all schools (with the exception of Ray Watkins) are acting as one learning group, following proper hand-washing protocols, wearing masks if interacting with other learning groups, and limiting physical contact. Cleaning is done twice a day and reusable masks and other PPE is available for use by staff and students. Conversations have taken place with individual parents about addressing their needs around COVID-19, and students are returning to school happy and excited.

b. **Strategic Plan**

“Our Pathway Forward” is the Board’s commitment to reflect what was heard through ongoing community consultation meetings. The final version should be ready for adoption at the October Board meeting. The other two pieces for presentation in October are the Framework for Enhancing Equity and Achievement and the plan to operationalize District resources towards those goals. In the meantime, as part of the strategic planning, there will be more community consultations by Zoom, with dates to be announced in the next week or so.

c. **Concept Drawings for Ray Watkins and Captain Meares Schools**

There are four concept drawings on display in the Board Room, showing the proposed renovations to Captain Meares Elementary School and Ray Watkins Elementary School. The upgraded wing (elementary) at Captain Meares School, currently unused, is seismically stable. Because the older wing (highschool) is difficult to test for seismic purposes, the plan is to remove it and upgrade the elementary wing to a K-12 space, remove the breezeway that currently connects the shop to the rest of the school, and then lease the shop space to the Village for a new firehall. There will still be plenty of space for services such as a daycare, senior centre, etc. This proposal will result in a larger, more efficient space at less overall cost to the District and Ministry.

The Board is consulting around the reconfiguration of the Gold River Schools into one school on the Ray Watkins site, to include a new full-size gym and a fairly large addition. The current gym would be made into a shop/home ec wing and connected with a corridor, and the addition could house secondary classrooms, a science lab and a computer lab. Also included would be a new driveway and parking lot for the secondary wing. The Gold River Secondary School building is wearing out and is costly to maintain. The chance of the District getting a suitable replacement is slim and this proposal would be a chance to get an upgraded building at substantially less cost for the Ministry and a savings for the District in terms of maintenance and utility costs. These concept drawings are important for the required community consultations that will be part of the upcoming town hall meetings. This is a consultation process only at this time, with no final decisions made.

d. **Policy and Administrative Procedure Update**

The Board is undertaking a project to re-do the current policy manual to reduce the 100+ policies and create administrative procedures to conduct the business of the District. For example, there is currently a policy regarding no dogs on school property that should be an administrative procedure so that the Board does not need to meet corporately to update the procedure if a dog-catcher is employed by the Village of Gold River. It is anticipated that the end result will be approximately 20% policies/80% administrative procedures. The project is currently on hold as recommended by the special advisor, so that the District's focus can be on strategic planning.

e. **District Scholarship Recipients for 2019-2020**

The Trustees were pleased to be a part of the zoom ceremonies in June to congratulate recipients:

- **Citizenship and Service** (\$1000):
Shania Thompson, Tsawalk Learning Centre
- **Future Education Workers** (\$1000):
Connor Creelman, Gold River Secondary
- **Raj Jaswal** (\$1000):
Soojin Lee, Gold River Secondary
- **Vocational and Technical** (\$1000):
Samuel Lawrence, Gold River Secondary
- **Judith Anderson Memorial Scholarship** (\$200):
Hyojung Sung, Gold River Secondary School
- **District/Authority Scholarship (Ministry)** (\$1250):
Alicia Karmazynski, Gold River Secondary School
Connor Creelman, Gold River Secondary School
Eva Sommerfeld, Gold River Secondary School
Farakina Chidley, Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School
Hana Kim, Gold River Secondary School
Hyojung Sung, Gold River Secondary School
Jacob Howie, Gold River Secondary School
Samuel Lawrence, Gold River Secondary School
Shania Thompson, Tsawalk Learning Centre
Soojin Lee, Gold River Secondary School

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Audited Financial Statements for 2019-2020**

2020:R-041 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO accept the audited financial statements for 2019-2020 as presented."

b. **Special Advisor Appointment**

Chairperson Fehr noted that School District 84 is a special district in many ways and now has a special advisor, Mr. Mike McKay, to further the District's interest in significantly improving student achievement. Mr. McKay has been working with the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer, District staff and Principals/Vice-Principals this summer, and will be meeting with various others towards the end of September.

Mike McKay is a retired Superintendent in Surrey and Saanich as well as holding principalships in his past. An experienced educator, Mr. McKay is giving the District many things to think about, consider and work on, all focusing on student learning. This is a great time for the District's strategic planning work, and making sure all students are having success as they move through their schooling.

c. **Community Consultation Meeting(s) – Round One**

This year's meetings will be held by Zoom, with the tentative plan to hold two larger consultations with the topics to include health and safety around the COVID-19 return to school, strategic planning, and a District facilities update including the proposed renovations to Captain Meares and Ray Watkins. It is important that each community will feel comfortable participating in a larger-scale Zoom meeting, and having the option of two dates will hopefully encourage people to attend. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for October 5th and 6th from 7-8:30 pm, and everyone in the District is welcome to attend. Information will be posted.

d. **Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses**

The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer explained that the Nootka Sound Outdoor Program BAA courses have received Board approval in the past. They have now been revised to ensure that they align with current needs. He requested approval of the BAA courses in this new format, to be used by the Nootka Sound Outdoor Program.

2020:R-042 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO approve the following Board/Authority Authorized courses as presented: Nootka Sound Outdoor Program 10A, Nootka Sound Outdoor Program 10B, Nootka Sound Outdoor Program 11B, and Nootka Sound Outdoor Program 12B."

e. **Disposition of Property Bylaw No. 0920-1**

A bylaw is required in order to sell property in the District and this bylaw deals with three properties in Zeballos and one property in Tahsis, all of which are no longer required for educational purposes.

2020:R-043 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO give Disposition of Property Bylaw No. 0920-1 three readings in one."

2020:R-044 MOVED: Trustee Stiglitz, SECONDED: Trustee Mann
AND RESOLVED:
"TO adopt Disposition of Property Bylaw No. 0920-1, as presented."

f. **Thank You to Summer Custodial and Maintenance Staff**

Chairperson Fehr expressed appreciation to all of the summer custodial and maintenance staff for their extra work and attention this summer to ensure that schools were healthy and safe for staff and students' return. The elevated level of cleaning and attention will continue, including the required supplies and PPE, all of which has been supported by additional funds received from the provincial and federal governments.

SUPERINENTENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT:

a. District Update

Last week was a trial run and it was good to see most of the staff returning. The first two days were for staff only, so that they could be trained in Stage 2 safety protocols and prepare for school. The majority of students returned on Thursday and Friday, at some schools more than others. A number of families are still concerned about sending their children to school, and concerned about not sending them. The biggest concern is for students who are not at school with no educational plan in place. Principals are following up with parents to ensure that their children register with the school, in a Distance Learning Program or in a homeschool program as soon as possible, to re-connect students and to have them in a comfortable space. When dealing with a communicable disease, there is no way for anyone to assure that anywhere is 100% safe. The schools will be as careful and vigilant as possible, with learning bubbles, PPE, handwashing, cleaning, and all of the other protocols that are in place. School is a safe place relative to the supermarket, or play dates with unexpected drop-ins, or local health care centre, etc. The Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer stated that he appreciates the worry and concern people have and appreciates the trust people are putting in the schools. He knows that staff will commit to the safety protocols to the best of their ability and will take care of the students. Any parents with issues can either talk to the School Principal or to the teacher if there is a direct classroom concern.

b. Enrollment Report

Approximately 80% of the students were in attendance at some point last week, District-wide.

TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:

Nil.

PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

Inquiries addressed the following:

- enrollment, which has ranged anywhere from 94% down to 15% (in one school on Friday where it had been at 70% the day before);
- appreciation to the District for ensuring that all necessary PPE is in place;
- interest in the new plans for a combined school in Gold River and looking forward to the townhall meetings for more information;
- excitement and energy around school starting up, with students and staff very happy.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS:

The next public meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2020, at 4:00 pm, with the location to be announced. The public is invited to attend. Any requests for additions to the agenda should be forwarded to amcdowell@viw.sd84.bc.ca two weeks prior to the meeting. Board meeting minutes are posted on the District's website at <http://www.sd84.bc.ca/board-meetings-school-district-84>.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Fehr declared the meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.